# 2024 Citizen Satisfaction Survey City of Dunedin, FL

Final Report: May 2024



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# Final Report May 2024

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**Disclaimer**: This study was conducted on behalf of the City of Dunedin, FL as part of ongoing quality improvement efforts. The findings of this study should not be construed as generalizable research.

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#### Introduction

This report summarizes responses to the City of Dunedin's <u>2024 Citizen Survey</u>. The survey was undertaken in an effort to gain feedback from residents as part of the City's ongoing strategic planning efforts. This report is designed to aid City officials in identifying opportunities to improve public service delivery, enhance community relations, and inform future policy development. The survey addressed eight key areas of concern, including:

- (1) Quality of Life
- (2) Community Amenities
- (3) Public Services
- (4) Transportation and Parking
- (5) Community Needs
- (6) Communications
- (7) Overall Performance
- (8) Future Priorities

The research methodology and data collection techniques used to conduct the survey are explained in this report. First, however, the section below provides an overview of the major findings and key takeaways from the survey responses.

# Key Themes and Takeaways

- ✓ Residents rated the <u>quality-of-life</u> in Dunedin very positively, though there have been slight declines over recent years.
  - A majority of residents (66%) describe Dunedin as an "excellent" place to live, with a combined 96% rating it as either "excellent" or "good". The high quality of life ratings are supported by positive perceptions of city amenities such as parks and recreation, as well as an appreciation for the city's safety, cultural events, and local transit offerings. Overall, the responses indicate high overall satisfaction with living conditions in Dunedin.
  - ➤ Despite high quality of life ratings, there has been a slight downward trend in the percentage of residents rating the city as "excellent". This appears to be driven by concerns related to rapid development and its impact on traffic and affordability, as evidenced by 56% of respondents feeling the city is developing too quickly.

- ✓ Consistent with prior years, respondents expressed very positive overall opinions about the quality of public services they receive from the city.
  - Parks and Recreation: Respondents reported high satisfaction with the proximity of parks from their home (76% very satisfied), as well as with maintenance of the city's parks (72% very satisfied).
  - Solid Waste and Recycling: Satisfaction with city services was also evidenced by responses related to the city's waste management services. For example, 76% of respondents indicated that they are "very satisfied" with trash collection, while 68% said the same about recycling services. These rates are high compared to those often observed in citizen surveys.
  - ➤ Public Safety: While 44% of respondents reported being "very satisfied" with the police presence in Dunedin, most respondents were unfamiliar with the city's policing model (the Community Police Officer Program). Respondents who interacted directly with Dunedin's Fire and EMS services over the past year reported very high levels of satisfaction with these departments.
  - ➤ Overall Satisfaction: Overall, 93% of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of public services that they receive from the city (with 55% saying that they are "very satisfied").
- ✓ Respondents expressed some concerns over the pace of development in Dunedin, with many suggesting that local infrastructure has not kept up with the rapidity of growth in the community.
  - ➤ Infrastructure Concerns: A majority of respondents felt that the city is growing too quickly (56%). This finding aligns with concerns about infrastructure not keeping pace with development. This is corroborated by lower satisfaction rates with infrastructure maintenance and services, including the condition of city streets and lighting. These concerns were also echoed at several points throughout the survey in open-ended responses provided by participants.
  - Traffic and Transportation: There was some dissatisfaction expressed with parking during special events (62% dissatisfied), as well as with traffic congestion during peak times. This was echoed in comments provided by residents at several points. Additionally, the data suggest low overall familiarity with some local transit services provided by the city. Increasing awareness of these offerings may help to ameliorate concerns over traffic congestion and parking availability.

- ✓ Respondents identified environmental initiatives and infrastructure improvements as top priorities for the city moving forward.
  - Additional environmental initiatives and sustainability emerged as high priorities for residents as they look toward the city's future. Notably, respondents reported high satisfaction rates with current efforts being undertaken by the city, though the responses also indicated a desire for more work in these areas. As noted above, concerns were raised about the city's growth management and its efforts at planning for the future. With these concerns in mind, residents identified environmental initiatives, public infrastructure, and a desire for more affordable housing as their top priorities for the city moving forward.

#### Data and Methods

The survey instrument used for this analysis was designed by the City of Dunedin (with assistance from Forward Analytics, LLC). The questionnaire was developed based on current trends in citizen satisfaction research, and it was subsequently refined to address the unique needs and priorities of city officials. In an effort to track long-term trends, the questionnaire built off of those utilized by the city in prior years (2019 and 2022). While this report examines some year over year trends, it should be noted that routine fluctuations in responses due to random sampling error are expected in the case of trend analyses that include a limited number of intervals/observations. This means that any observed trends should be interpreted with caution until additional years of data become available for analysis. More extensive data are required to ensure that observed changes represent verifiable trends rather than random variations across the yearly samples of respondents.

#### **Data Collection Strategies**

It should be emphasized that under ideal circumstances, a community survey such as this would be administered through a randomized sampling process, to include a sample of citizens that is proportionally representative of the city's diverse demography and geographical dispersion. However, this methodology is prohibitively expensive and requires access to a comprehensive list of city residents (including contact information). In light of these limitations, the city has adopted a more "grassroots" survey methodology, which includes developing an online landing page to house the survey instrument and subsequently encouraging public participation through a variety of convenient/available communication channels. Based on this methodology, city staff made substantial efforts to raise awareness of the survey across the entire community, with specific

attention paid to those populations of residents that often exhibit lower rates of participation in citizen surveys. These outreach efforts included (but were not limited to):

- A weekly DunediNews link and blog post that shared the survey link;
- Posts across the city's multiple social media platforms (Facebook, X, LinkedIn);
- A direct email campaign;
- Distribution of flyers and rack cards.

The Citizen Survey project page was created ahead of the survey's "go-live" date of Monday, March 25. To direct residents to the project page ahead of the survey opening, information was shared in the DunediNews on Thursday, March 21. Follow this, a special edition of the DunediNews was shared with over 8000 subscribers on Tuesday, March 26, specific only to the Citizen Survey. Ongoing posts in the DunediNews were shared each subsequent week. These included graphics and more detailed blog post information. Website and newsletter postings garnered 618 views.

Along with these Communication initiatives, City Staff worked on a direct email campaign, which included reaching out to a variety of entities, including:

- The DT Task Force;
- The Business, Resident, City (BRC) Council;
- An Economic Development direct email list of over 800 contacts;
- The Chamber of Commerce;
- The DDMA;
- Dunedin elementary, middle and high schools;

- Dunedin Cares;
- The Dunedin History Museum;
- The Dunedin Fine Arts Center;
- The VFW;
- The Dunedin Boat Club.
- Ad many other city businesses and organizations.

Additionally, rack cards and flyers including a QR code link to the survey were distributed to each of the forward facing City properties:

- The Hale Senior Center;
- Dunedin Public Library;
- MLK Center, Community Center;
- City Hall.

Flyers were displayed in public locations and rack cards were available for pick up. Both flyers and rack cards were distributed throughout the community at businesses and other locations, including Dunedin Commons, a multitude of child care centers, several churches, and businesses like Dunedin Pet Supply, Knot on Main Street, Mangos and Marley, and many other local businesses. Additionally, City staff reached out to minority owned businesses and organization to encourage minority responses. City staff was asked to advocate with minority guests to complete the survey and community members such as Pastor Clem Bell of Shiloh Baptist Church were asked to assist with spreading the word and provided with rack cards and flyers for distribution. Finally, social media posting and sharing was continual throughout the duration of the survey period. There were a total of 4 Facebook posts which garnered 586 clicks, 4 "X" posts which had 635 views, 4 LinkedIn posts (clicks and view data unavailable), and 2 NextDoor posts with 1554 impressions. To note, many Dunedin organizations and businesses reposted social media Citizen Survey information both on their own pages and on group pages (for example, Dunedin Discussions, Dunedin Chat, and Dunedin Moms Group). Additional social media posting included the April 'Your City at Work' video featuring City Manager Bramley, who shared information on the survey.

Due to its cost effectiveness, this "grassroots" approach to citizen surveys is commonly employed by local governments. While it can be an effective means of obtaining citizen input, it's important to interpret the survey results in light of the limitations that come with this methodology, which include a tendency for more "engaged" citizens to participate in the feedback process. This tends to result in an overrepresentation of homeowners and higher income residents. A more detailed summary of the participants and respondents is provided below.

# Survey Response Rate

The online survey was active and available to residents from March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2024, with the city receiving a total of 2,044 complete responses. This represented a 19% increase in completed responses over 2022, when 1,715 residents completed the survey. It should be emphasized that this report only includes responses from those residents who completed all sections of the survey. A number of residents clicked on the survey link but did not complete the entire survey. These partial responses are not included in this report, though they are available to city officials for further review and consideration. It should also be noted that individuals who reported not being at least 18 years of age or living in the City of Dunedin were automatically skipped to the end of the survey; they are not included in this analysis.

The sample size of 2,044 can be classified as "strong" given the city's population (projected by the U.S. Census Bureau at 36,059). Based on this metric, the sample size results in a margin of error +/- 2.11 (with a 95% confidence level). While this is a very good sample size relative to the city's population, it's important to emphasize that statistical theory assumes a *proportionally* representative sample when calculating the margin of error, and there are some important deviations

from this assumption to keep in mind when interpreting the results. These are discussed further under the "Summary of Respondents" below.

# Summary of Respondents

When considering the housing demographics of the survey respondents, it's important to note that over 92% of respondents reported owning their home (Table 1). This is considerably higher than the 71% owner-occupied housing rate reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2022. Additionally, the sample appears to favor the opinions of those who have lived in the city for a long time, with nearly half of the respondents (48%) indicating that they've lived in Dunedin for more than 10 years. Conversely, only 9% report having lived in the city for 2 years or less. This is not an uncommon phenomenon in citizen surveys, as those with longer tenure in a community often exhibit higher levels of civic engagement and tend to perceive a greater personal "stake" in the community's planning and feedback initiatives. However, these disparities should be kept in mind when interpreting the survey results.

Table 1. Housing Profile of Survey Respondents

Housing Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
What type of home do you live in?		
Apartment (rental)	7	3.8%
Assisted Living Facility	1	0.1%
Condominium	311	15.3%
Duplex/Triplex	58	2.8%
Mobile Home	79	3.8%
Single Family Home	1,449	71.0%
Other	66	3.2%
Do you rent or own your home?		
Own	1,878	92.3%
Rent	156	7.7%

How long have you lived in Dunedin?		
Less than 1 year	48	2.4%
1-2 years	138	6.8%
3-5 years	412	20.2%
6-10 years	474	23.2%
11-20 years	381	18.7%
More than 20 years	589	28.8%

Table 2 provides a further summary of the sample's demographic profile. As the data suggest, Females were considerably more likely than males to complete the survey (62% and 38% respectively). Additionally, nearly two-thirds of respondents (62%) were between the ages of 55 and 74, while less than 3% were under 35 years of age. This also is a common tendency in citizen surveys, thought it should be kept in mind that the sample is under-representative of the city's younger adult residents. Among the respondents, 95% identified themselves as "white", which is slightly above the 85% reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Conversely, less than 1% identified themselves as African American, compared to the 4% reported by the Census Bureau.

Table 2.

Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

Personal Demographics	Frequency	Percentage
Do you identify as		
Male	762	38.3%
Female	1,224	61.5%
Non-Binary/Transgender	5	0.3%
What is your age?		
Under 25	8	0.4%
25-34	42	2.1%
35-44	198	9.8%
45-54	292	14.5%
55-64	620	30.8%
65-74	629	31.3%
75 or Older	224	11.1%

Are you of Hispanic descent?		
Yes	53	2.7%
No	1,936	97.3%
Which of the following best describes your race?		
American Indian/Alaska Native	3	0.2%
Asian / Pacific Islander	13	0.7%
Black or African American	11	0.6%
White	1,883	94.5%
Other	83	4.2%

# Survey Results

The subsections below include a detailed summary of responses to the 2024 Dunedin Citizen Survey. This summary is organized around the core sections of the survey, which include the following: (1) Quality of Life, (2) Community Amenities, (3) Public Services, (4) Transportation and Parking, (5) Community Needs, (6) Communications, (7) Overall Performance, and (8) Future Priorities.

### Quality of Life

Overall, residents rated their quality of life in Dunedin positively, with 66% describing the city as an "excellent" place to live (Table 3). A combined 96% described it as either "excellent" or "good". The responses did not reveal any significant levels of discontent with regard to quality of life. Nearly 13% described the city as either a "fair" or "poor" place to work, though a plurality of respondents reported being "unsure" about this. A similar 14% described the city as a "fair" or "poor" place to retire, though the vast majority (84%) described it as either "excellent" or "good". Among those who provided an answer, most described Dunedin as an "excellent" or "good" place to raise children (68% "excellent" + "good"; 23% "unsure").

Table 3. Quality of Life Perceptions (as % of row total)

How would you rate the City of Dunedin in each of the following areas?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
As a place to live	66.2%	29.7%	3.4%	0.6%	0.1%
As a place to work	22.6%	25.9%	9.6%	2.9%	39.0%
As a place to raise children	36.6%	31.5%	7.5%	1.1%	23.4%
As a place to visit	73.8%	22.4%	2.3%	0.3%	1.3%
As a place to retire	57.9%	25.7%	10.1%	3.5%	2.9%

These responses were relatively consistent with those observed in prior years, though there has been a slight downward trend in the proportion of residents who describe Dunedin as an "excellent" place to live since 2019 (Figure 1). Open-ended responses provided later in the survey suggest that concerns over the pace of development – as well as subsequent impacts on traffic congestion and affordability – may be a factor in this trend. These responses are discussed further below, though it should be emphasized that additional years of data are needed to confirm this trend, as random sampling error could account for some of these fluctuations.

Figure 1. Citizen Perceptions of Dunedin as a Place to Live (2019 - 2022)100.0% 90.0% 80.0% 70.0% 60.0% 50.0% 40.0% 30.0% 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 --- % Excellent + Good -% Excellent

Resident's opinions about key characteristics of the community can help to provide context for their quality-of-life ratings. Table 4 provides an overview of these responses. The data show that a large majority of residents are satisfied with the city's overall aesthetics and safety, though many have concerns about the availability of public housing, as well as public transportation and traffic congestion. For example, a combined 94% say that they are either "very" or "somewhat satisfied" with the city's overall aesthetics. A similar number (94%) say that they are satisfied with the overall sense of safety in the city, which was echoed in subsequent open-ended comments (discussed further below).

Table 4. Satisfaction with Key City Characteristics (as % of row total)

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following characteristics of the city?	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Overall Aesthetics	58.4%	35.6%	4.7%	1.3%	0.1%
Overall Safety	61.2%	32.3%	5.0%	1.2%	0.3%
Affordable Housing Availability	7.2%	22.2%	29.0%	28.1%	13.6%
Business Opportunities	13.1%	30.6%	10.8%	3.8%	41.7%
Public Transportation	22.3%	34.1%	15.0%	7.2%	21.6%
Traffic Flow and Congestion	8.8%	33.8%	33.0%	23.7%	0.7%

Conversely, a plurality of respondents (42%) reported being at least "somewhat dissatisfied" with the availability of affordable housing in Dunedin. This is consistent with concerns observed in other localities throughout the state of Florida over recent years, as home prices have risen significantly throughout the state. Additionally, nearly 1 in 4 respondents (24%) indicated being dissatisfied with the flow of traffic. When comparing these responses against those observed in prior years, it's important to note that data reported for the 2019 and 2022 surveys exclude those respondents who failed to answer the question or chose "unsure". When the 2024 data are adjusted accordingly for comparison, we see that satisfaction with traffic has remained relatively consistent across the past 5 years, while satisfaction with the availability of affordable housing has fallen since 2019 (Figure 2). Satisfaction with traffic increased slightly from 2022 but was within the expected range for random sampling error. Satisfaction with affordable housing decreased slightly in 2024, following a substantial decrease in 2022.

Citizen Perceptions of Traffic and Affordable Housing (2019 - 2024) 60.0% 50.0% 40.0% 30.0% 20.0% 10.0% 0.0% 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 % very + somewhat satisfied (traffic)

--- % very + somewhat satisfied (affordable housing)

Figure 2.

### **Community Amenities**

When asked about specific amenities, respondents rated the city's key offerings very positively. While this overall tendency is consistent with the findings of prior years' surveys, it's important to note that the exclusion of "unsure" responses in the 2019 and 2022 survey reports may have inflated perceived familiarity with these amenities. Of the 11 city amenities that respondents were asked to rate (Tables 5 and 6), a majority selected "unsure" in 6 instances. While it's reasonable to assume that residents will have different interests and needs when it comes to city amenities, the very large number of "unsure" responses may reflect a prevailing lack of familiarity with many of the city's most prized offerings. It's recommended that future surveys measure familiarity with these amenities and limit satisfaction questions to those who report familiarity. This will allow the city to better identify opportunities to raise awareness of its key offerings as well as to target programmatic improvements where necessary.

Table 5 shows that a two-thirds majority of respondents (68%) report being satisfied with the Dunedin Library (the calculation of this percentage includes those who chose "unsure"). A majority also reported being satisfied with the Dunedin Community Center (55%) and the Dunedin Fine Arts Center (53%). In each case, 2% or less reported any level of dissatisfaction with these amenities, with the exception of the golf club, where 9% reported some level of dissatisfaction. However, in the case of the MLK Recreation Center, the Hale Senior Center, and the Dunedin Golf Club, a majority of respondents chose "unsure".

Table 5. Satisfaction with City Amenities (as % of row total)

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following amenities offered by the City of Dunedin.	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Dunedin Library	68.4%	11.7%	1.1%	0.3%	18.6%
Dunedin Community Center	55.0%	19.3%	2.0%	0.3%	23.5%
MLK Recreation Center	22.7%	11.8%	1.6%	0.6%	63.2%
Hale Senior Activity Center	31.7%	13.8%	1.4%	0.6%	52.4%
Dunedin Golf Club	17.1%	18.3%	6.4%	2.8%	55.5%
Dunedin Fine Arts Center	53.0%	18.8%	1.3%	0.5%	26.4%

Similarly, the amenities examined in Table 6 were rated positively by those who indicated familiarity with them, though a majority chose "unsure" when asked about the Highlander Pool, Kiwanis Sprayground, Achieva Paw Park, and Stirling Park Driving Range. In each case, no more than 10% indicated any degree of dissatisfaction with these amenities, though overall, the data suggest some potential opportunities to raise awareness of the city's key amenities among residents.

Table 6. Satisfaction with City Amenities (as % of row total)

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following amenities offered by the City of Dunedin.	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Highlander Pool	14.2%	17.6%	6.6%	3.0%	58.6%
Kiwanis Sprayground	24.6%	12.2%	1.7%	0.6%	60.9%
Dunedin Marina	33.9%	31.1%	6.4%	1.6%	27.1%
Achieva Paw Park	15.6%	13.1%	5.5%	3.2%	62.7%
Stirling Park Driving Range	21.1%	16.4%	2.6%	0.6%	59.3%

Consistent with the data reporting format utilized in 2022, Figure 3 provides a summary of overall satisfaction levels for these amenities with the "unsure" responses removed. The positive overall satisfaction rates are consistent with those observed in prior iterations of the survey.

% very + somewhat satisfied **Dunedin Library** 98.2% **Dunedin Fine Arts Center** 97.5% 96.9% **Dunedin Community Center** Hale Senior Activity Center 95.7% Kiwanis Sprayground MLK Recreation Center 94.0% Stirling Park Driving Range Dunedin Marina Dunedin Golf Club 79.5% Highlander Pool 76.8% Achieva Paw Park

Figure 3.

# City Services

The core of the 2024 survey examined residents' opinions on some the city's core public services, which included (1) parks and recreation services, (2) public safety, (3) solid waste and recycling, and (4) infrastructure maintenance. Responses for each service category are outlined in the subsections below.

#### Parks and Recreation Services

Parks and recreation stood out as a particularly strong area among the survey responses. Participants reported very high levels of satisfaction with the quality and maintenance of the city's parks, though familiarity with parks and recreation programming was relatively low in some cases. For example, an overwhelming majority of respondents reported being satisfied with the proximity of parks from their homes (76% "very satisfied", 18% "somewhat satisfied") and the maintenance of city parks (72% "very satisfied", 23% "somewhat satisfied"). Residents were also highly satisfied

with the city's walking/biking paths and city sponsored parks and recreation events (85% and 90% overall satisfaction, respectively).

Table 7. Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Services (as % of row total)

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Thinking about the City of Dunedin's Parks and Recreation Services, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
The proximity of city parks from your home	76.3%	18.4%	2.5%	1.0%	1.9%
The maintenance of city parks	71.5%	22.7%	2.1%	1.2%	2.6%
Walking and biking paths in the city	57.4%	27.7%	9.4%	3.7%	1.8%
The quality of youth programs	20.9%	11.1%	2.9%	0.8%	64.4%
The quality of adult programs	35.7%	29.1%	4.0%	0.9%	30.3%
City sponsored special events	60.2%	29.6%	3.6%	1.7%	5.0%

Consistent with the format utilized in the 2022 survey report, Figure 4 shows residents' overall levels of satisfaction with the parks and recreation department with the "unsure" responses removed. As observed in prior years, the department received very high levels of support from members of the community.

Figure 4.

% very + somewhat satisfied

The proximity of parks from your home

The maintenance of city parks

Walking and biking paths in the city

The quality of youth programs

The quality of adult programs

Only 190.5%

Possible 4.

96.5%

96.6%

89.8%

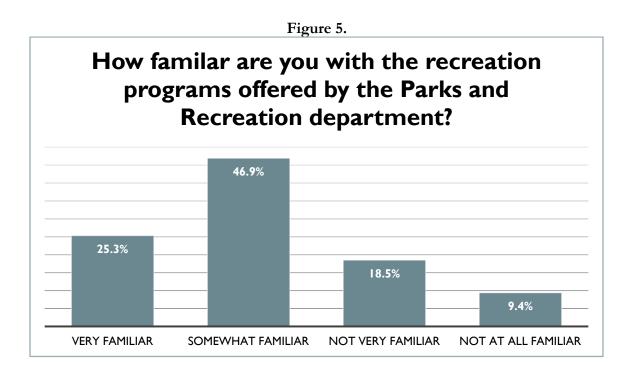
The quality of adult programs

Only 29.9%

City sponsored special events

94.5%

While overall satisfaction with parks and recreation services was high, nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) chose "unsure" when asked about the quality of youth programs, while nearly a third (30%) said the same when asked about adult programming. This suggests some degree of unfamiliarity and/or a lack of usage on the part of residents. When asked directly how familiar they are with the department's recreation programs, 28% of residents selected either "not very" or "not at all familiar" (Figure 5). Only 1 in 4 respondents (25%) indicated that they are "very familiar" with the department's programming. The high overall satisfaction ratings received by the parks and recreation department were consistent with those observed in 2022.



#### Public Safety

Table 8 summarizes residents' current levels of satisfaction with the city's public safety services. As the data show, a majority of residents (77%) are satisfied with the number of police present in the city, though a majority (54%) report being "unsure" about the quality of police response times. Similarly, a large majority (78%) chose "unsure" when asked about the Community Police Office (CPO) program. While the former finding is unsurprising, as most residents may not have direct experience with police response times, the latter suggests a significant lack of familiarity with the city and county's shared local policing model. As noted above, the exclusion of "unsure" responses in prior years may have over-inflated the city's understanding of residents' overall

familiarity and satisfaction with this service. It's recommended that future iterations of the survey directly measure familiarity with the CPO program in order to better manage public needs and expectations.

Table 8. Satisfaction with Public Safety Services (as % of row total)

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Thinking about public safety, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following services provided by the city:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Number of police present in the city	43.6%	33.6%	7.4%	2.9%	12.5%
Police response time	29.2%	12.9%	2.3%	1.2%	54.4%
The Community Police Officer Program (CPO)	12.0%	7.5%	1.9%	0.9%	77.7%
Fire Services	39.5%	9.2%	0.5%	0.3%	50.5%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	37.4%	9.0%	0.9%	0.4%	52.3%
Dunedin's Code Compliance	12.3%	16.5%	11.2%	6.8%	53.3%

A majority of respondents chose "unsure" when asked not just about the CPO program, but also the city's Fire and Emergency Medical Services, as well as the Code Compliance Office. This is unsurprising given prevailing patterns of usage for these services, so in an effort to better understand citizen's experiences with the city's public safety services, respondents were asked whether they have personally used or interacted with key departments/agencies in the past 12 months. This included (1) local police, (2) Dunedin's Fire Department, (3) Dunedin's Emergency Medical Services, and (4) the city's Code Compliance Department. Table 9 provides a summary of how satisfied respondents who directly interacted with these departments are with several key aspects of their service. Please note that the (n = #) value listed for each row shows the number of respondents who reported a relevant interaction AND answered the subsequent question.

As the data show, a majority of those who interacted directly with local police in the past year reported being satisfied both with the number of police present in the city (82%) and the local police response time (72%). However, a significant majority of those who interacted with local police (61%) still indicated a lack of familiarity with the CPO program. Those who interacted directly with the City's Fire Services reported high overall levels of satisfaction with the service (84%), as did those who interacted with the city's EMS services (93%). In the case of Code

Compliance, the responses were somewhat more mixed, with 56% indicating satisfaction and 38% indicating some degree of dissatisfaction. This is consistent with results observed in other jurisdictions, and largely unsurprising given the often-punitive nature of Code Compliance interactions. It's recommended that the city consider additional questions in future iterations of the survey in order to better understand the nature of these interactions and the specific areas of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with these services.

Table 9. End-User Satisfaction with Public Safety Services (as % of row total)

Thinking about public safety, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following services provided by the city:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Number of police present in the city (n=544)	50.6%	31.6%	8.6%	3.9%	5.3%
Police response time (n=540)	51.7%	20.2%	5.0%	2.2%	20.9%
The Community Police Officer Program (CPO) (n=543)_	20.4%	12.9%	3.7%	1.8%	61.1%
Fire Services (n=301)	72.4%	12.0%	1.0%	0.0%	14.6%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) (n=261)	84.3%	8.8%	1.2%	1.2%	4.6%
Dunedin's Code Compliance (n=386)	24.9%	30.8%	21.8%	16.6%	6.0%

#### Solid Waste and Recycling

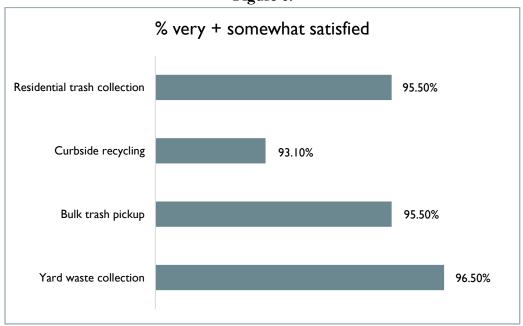
Solid waste and recycling often emerge as areas of discontent in citizen surveys, but Dunedin residents rated the city's services very positively in this area. A large majority (90%) indicated that they are satisfied with their residential trash pickup, with 76% choosing "very satisfied". Additionally, 81% reported being satisfied with their curbside recycling service (68% "very satisfied") and 78% said the same about yard waste collection (68% "very satisfied"). Relative to common concerns raised in citizen surveys, the city rated very well in these areas.

Table 10. Satisfaction with Solid Waste and Recycling Services (as % of row total)

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Thinking about the City of Dunedin's Solid Waste and Recycling services, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Residential Trash Collection	75.7%	14.1%	2.7%	1.5%	6.1%
Curbside Recycling	68.2%	12.7%	3.0%	3.0%	13.2%
Bulk Trash Pickup	68.3%	11.0%	2.1%	1.7%	17.0%
Yard Waste Collection	67.9%	9.7%	1.7%	1.1%	19.7%

Figure 6 shows residents' satisfaction with trash and recycling services with the "unsure" responses removed. As observed in prior years, residents report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the services provided by the department.

Figure 6.



#### Infrastructure Maintenance

In the case of infrastructure maintenance, the responses were positive overall, though less enthusiastically so than in other areas. For example, a majority of respondents indicated being satisfied with the condition of city streets, lighting on city streets, and litter collection. However, in each case, 50% or less chose "very satisfied", while a plurality tended to indicate being "somewhat satisfied". The responses do not highlight any particularly negative trends or tendencies, though they do suggest some opportunities to improve citizen experiences and bring these services in line with the high levels of satisfaction observed for parks/recreation, public safety, and trash/recycling.

Table 11.
Satisfaction with Infrastructure Maintenane (as % of row total)

Satisfaction with infrastruct		uiie (uo / 0 0)	10 W total)		
Thinking about Dunedin's infrastructure, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
The condition of city streets	33.7%	50.2%	11.8%	4.1%	0.3%
Condition/appearance of medians	39.6%	47.6%	8.8%	2.3%	1.8%
Lighting on city streets	44.6%	43.4%	8.8%	2.2%	1.0%
Litter collection on city streets	50.4%	37.8%	5.7%	2.4%	3.7%
Drinking water quality	42.1%	34.2%	11.2%	6.8%	5.7%
Drainage	27.4%	43.6%	16.0%	7.3%	5.7%

A majority of respondents also expressed satisfaction with the city's drinking water quality and drainage, though once a gain a notable number chose either "somewhat satisfied" or "somewhat dissatisfied". Only 27% reported being "very satisfied with the city's drainage, while a combined 23% indicated some level of dissatisfaction with the same. Once again, it should be emphasized that these responses show some opportunities for improvement in the city's ongoing pursuit of excellence, but they do not suggest any areas of significant dissatisfaction among residents.

Patterns of responses were relatively consistent over the past 5 years with regard to infrastructure quality and maintenance. There was a slight decrease in residents' satisfaction with the condition of city streets, dropping from 93% in 2022 to 84% in 2024. While this is a notable decrease – and it falls outside the standard expectations for random sampling error – more data is

needed to determine whether this represents a significant ongoing trend. Satisfaction with drainage also fell from 80% in 2022 to 75% in 2024, while there was a slight increase in satisfaction with the quality of drinking water (rising from 77% in 2022 to 81% in 2024).

Citizen Perceptions of Infrastructure Quality and Maintenance (2019 - 2024) 100.00% 95.00% 90.00% 85.00% 80.00% 75.00% 70.00% 65.00% 60.00% 55.00% 50.00% 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2018 Condition of city streets Litter collection on city streets

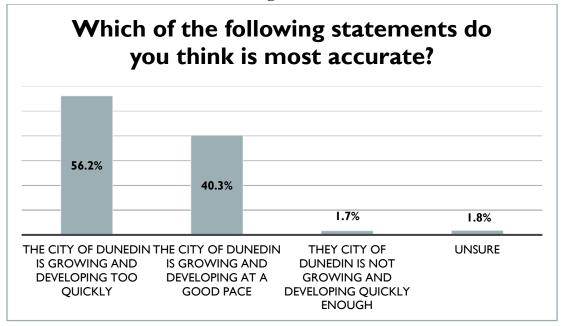
Figure 7.

As a significant component of infrastructure maintenance, residents were also asked to share their attitudes about the pace of growth and development in the city (Figure 8). More than half of the survey respondents (56%) expressed concerns that the city is "growing and developing too quickly", while 40% indicated that the city is "growing and developing at a good pace". Open-ended responses to subsequent questions echoed concerns about unchecked growth, with many residents suggesting that the city's infrastructure has not kept pace with its rapid development (discussed further below).

Drainage

Drinking water quality

Figure 8.



Respondents were also given an opportunity to provide open-ended feedback on any areas of concern they had related to infrastructure. Of the 2,044 respondents, 737 (36%) responded to the prompt, which asked: If you have any specific areas of concern with the city's infrastructure and maintenance, please share them with us here. The responses were analyzed using a generative AI platform (Open AI's Data Analyst GPT) in order to identify the most common themes/topics and to conduct a sentiment analysis of the responses. This analysis was checked and verified through a human content analysis to ensure accuracy. Table 12 provides a summary of the most common themes and categories that emerged in the responses, as well as a breakdown of the sentiment analysis for each topic.

The most commonly raised issues included concerns over road/sidewalk maintenance and water drainage, with each appearing in roughly 20% of the comments. In both cases, the comments were decidedly negative, centering around issues such as potholes, road surfaces, and flooding. In some instances, specific geographic locales emerged as themes, which are highlighted in the Table below. A full list of these comments has been provided to city officials for further analysis and consideration.

Table 12.

Open-Ended Comments re: Infrastructure and Maintenance

Торіс	Themes	Frequency	Sentiment
Road and Sidewalk Maintenance	Concerns include potholes, uneven road surfaces, and sidewalks that are not maintained. Examples include major issues on Pinehurst Road, Patricia Avenue, and Curlew Creek.	22%	70% negative 25% neutral 5% positive
Traffic and Safety	Concerns include traffic congestion, a desire for better traffic light synchronization, and speed limit inconsistencies, such as on Virginia Street.  Concerns about a perceived lack of safety on roads due to fast-moving bicycles and e-bikes were also prominent.	18%	70% negative 20% neutral 10% positive
Public Facilities	Public restrooms are often noted as being in poor condition. Responses also include a call for better maintenance of parks and additional public lighting, especially in areas away from downtown.	15%	50% negative 35% neutral 15% positive
Water and Drainage	Significant issues were raised over flooding and drainage, particularly in Baywood Shores and Edgewater Drive. Many respondents complained about the poor response to flooding and the quality of tap water.	20%	75% negative 20% neutral 5% positive
Development and City Planning	Concerns are focused primarily on perceived overdevelopment, with many respondents feeling that infrastructure has not kept pace with growth. Common concerns include too much focus on attracting tourists at the expense of residents' quality of life.	15%	60% negative 30% neutral 10% positive
Utilities and Services	Issues were raised with regard to garbage collection and recycling services not being up to standard. There are also numerous complaints about the taste and quality of the tap water.	10%	50% negative 40% neutral 10% positive

Note: Analysis conducted using OpenAI's Data Analyst GPT and confirmed by human content analysis on a sample of responses.

Other common topics that emerged in the responses included concerns over the pace of development, the condition of public facilities (i.e. restrooms and lighting), and concerns over traffic safety and efficiency. It should be emphasized that concerns over traffic and overdevelopment are endemic to jurisdictions throughout the state of Florida at this time, and the magnitude of these concerns among Dunedin residents is on par with those observed in similar jurisdictions over recent

years. As noted above, a full list of open-ended comments has been provided to the city for further review and consideration.

### Transportation and Parking

Throughout the survey design process, citizen perceptions of traffic and parking in Downtown Dunedin emerged as an area of significant interest for city officials. In an effort to better understand the nuances of residents' opinions, respondents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with both parking availability and traffic congestion in Downtown at specific times, including (1) weekdays, (2) evenings during the week, (3) weekends during the day, (4) weekends during the evening, and (5) during special events and festivals. Table 13 summarizes responses related to parking availability. The data show that satisfaction with parking availability is relatively high on weekdays, but it drops significantly on weekends and during special events. For example, 40% of respondents expressed some degree of dissatisfaction with parking on weekends days, while 46% said the same about weekend evenings. Dissatisfaction was highest during special events and festivals, where 62% of respondents expressed some degree of dissatisfaction.

Table 13.

Satisfaction with Parking Availability

Saustaction with Parking Av	anabinty				
Next, we'd like to understand how satisfied you are with the availability of public parking in Downtown during each of the following times:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable to Me
Weekdays	38.2%	38.2%	10.1%	4.9%	8.5%
Evenings During the Week	29.3%	41.9%	12.0%	6.3%	10.5%
Weekends During the Day	16.4%	35.3%	24.6%	15.2%	8.6%
Weekends During the Evening	13.0%	29.9%	26.1%	19.4%	11.7%
During Events/Festivals	8.3%	20.5%	26.8%	34.9%	9.6%

A similar pattern emerged with regard to the flow of traffic and congestion (Table 14). A majority of respondents indicated satisfaction with the flow of traffic in Downtown Dunedin during weekdays (74%) and weeknights (71%). However, 40% or more expressed dissatisfaction with traffic on weekends (both days and evenings). Once again, dissatisfaction was highest in the case of special events and festivals, with 43% expressing some level of dissatisfaction. Overall, respondents expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction with the availability of parking than with the flow of traffic.

Table 14. Satisfaction with the Flow of Traffic and Congestion

How satisfied are you with the flow of traffic and congestion in Downtown at each of the following times:	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable to Me
Weekdays	30.0%	43.5%	15.3%	7.8%	3.4%
Evenings During the Week	26.5%	44.0%	15.6%	8.4%	5.5%
Weekends During the Day	16.4%	40.1%	26.2%	14.0%	3.4%
Weekends During the Evening	14.2%	36.9%	26.6%	16.0%	6.3%
During Events/Festivals	8.0%	24.9%	28.7%	33.0%	5.5%

Respondents were also asked to share their perceptions of the city's transportation infrastructure and whether it safely supports alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, and golf carting. The responses (Table 15) suggest that residents perceive the city as having safe and efficient infrastructure in place to support walking (80%), while a two-thirds majority (66%) say the same about biking. Open-ended responses provided throughout the survey underscore the fact that residents appreciate the walkability of the city, as well as the overall sense of safety that they feel when walking in the community. Conversely, less than half felt that the city has safe and efficient infrastructure in place to support golf carting (45%), and comments provided throughout the survey suggested a desire for additional safe golf cart crossings on main thoroughfares.

Table 15. Alternative Transportation Infrastructure

In your opinion, does the City of Dunedin have adequate infrastructure to safely and efficiently support the following modes of transportation:	Yes	No	Unsure
Walking	80.3%	16.9%	2.9%
Biking	65.6%	26.9%	7.5%
Golf Carting	44.9%	29.8%	25.3%

Overall, residents expressed positive opinions about the public transit options provided in and by the city. However, the data also suggest a lack of familiarity with some key transit services (Table 16). For example, while a small majority reported being familiar with the FreeBee Loop Shuttle (54%), another 46% indicated that they are either "not very" or "not at all familiar" with the service. Similarly, just over a third of respondents (34%) indicated that they are not familiar with the Local Tiki Shuttle service. A majority of respondents (60%) indicated that they are not familiar with the PSTA Bus service, while 42% said the same about the Clearwater-Dunedin Ferry service. Collectively, the results suggest that there are opportunities to increase residents' familiarity with these local public transportation options, which may help to alleviate some of the aforementioned concerns over parking availability and traffic congestion.

Table 16. Familiarity with Local Transit Services

How familiar are you with each of the following transit services available in Dunedin, including how to use this service?	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Very Familiar	Not at All Familiar
FreeBee Loop Shuttle	16.9%	37.0%	18.8%	27.3%
Jolly Trolly	35.7%	43.3%	11.1%	9.8%
Local Tiki Shuttle	31.1%	34.5%	16.1%	18.3%
PSTA Buses	12.8%	27.8%	28.3%	31.2%
Clearwater-Dunedin Ferry	24.0%	34.1%	22.1%	19.8%

When asked to provide open-ended comments about their experience and familiarity with these services, residents expressed largely positive opinions (Table 17). Utilizing the same methodology described above, the responses were analyzed using a Generative AI platform and verified through a human content analysis. The most common themes that emerged included positive comments, tempered with a desire for increased service availability, improved accessibility, and reduced costs of usage. With that said, the responses primarily focused on appreciation for the services and their added value for residents (as denoted by the rate of positive responses depicted in the sentiment analysis below).

Table 17 Open-Ended Comments re: Public Transportation Services

Торіс	Themes	Frequency	Sentiment
Service Availability	Many respondents expressed a desire for extended operational hours for services like the FreeBee Loop, suggesting a need for daily service to accommodate their schedules. Others noted the infrequency of certain services, which limits their usability.  Typical Comment: "Yes, love the FreeBee Loop. Just wish it was available everyday".	21%	21% negative 8% neutral 70% positive
Usage Experience	Positive comments often praised the convenience and efficiency of the services when used. Negative experiences typically related to unpredictability in service schedules and occasional overcrowding.  Typical Comment: "We use the Jolly Tolley and ferry services. Both are good alternatives to driving".	39%	I 2% negative 26% neutral 62% positive
Accessibility	Requests for more safe crossing locations for pedestrians and golf carts were common. Some highlighted specific intersections or areas where access improvements could enhance safety and usability.  Typical Comment: "Would like additional places to cross main streets with golf carts".	5%	21% negative 8% neutral 72% positive
Cost Concerns	Concerns about the cost of transportation services were mentioned, with some unsure about which services were free versus paid. There were also suggestions for more transparency regarding pricing.  Typical Comment: "When I called free tiki shuttle, they wanted \$20 a head".	6%	13% negative 23% neutral 64% positive
Alternative Transportation	This category includes a variety of transportation methods like biking, walking, and the use of personal golf carts. Comments reflected both satisfaction with these options and desire for better infrastructure to support them.  Typical Comment: "We generally walk to and from downtown. That's one of the things that made Dunedin attractive to us".	8%	13% negative 29% neutral 57% positive

General Feedback	General feedback encompassed broad statements about the transportation services, including suggestions for improvement and expressions of general satisfaction or dissatisfaction.  Typical Comment: "We use all of the public transportation options listed above EXCEPT for the PSTA because I ride out of enjoyment, not necessity."	16%	11% negative 29% neutral 60% positive
Note: Analysis conducted	using OpenAl's Data Analyst GPT and confirmed by human conten	t analysis on a sa	imble of responses

# Community Needs

In an effort to better understand and serve the needs of Dunedin's most vulnerable residents, the survey also examined participants' experience of common needs, as well as their familiarity with social service programs offered by the city. Table 18 summarizes the proportion of respondents who indicated that either they or a member of their household experienced each specific need in the past year. In most cases, 10% or less of the survey participants indicated an experienced need, with "inability to pay medical bills" being the most common (11%), followed closely by "transportation issues" (10%) and "housing instability (10%). While overall observed need among the survey respondents was low, it's important to emphasize that the sample of participants is slightly under-representative of younger residents and renters, which may result in an understatement of experienced need within the community.

Table 18. Experience of Common Service Needs

Have you or someone you live with experienced any of the following over the past year?	Frequency "Yes"	Percentage "Yes"
Food insecurity	135	6.7%
Unmet medical needs	156	7.7%
Unmet housing needs	181	8.9%
Transportation issues	209	10.3%

Technology needs	131	6.5%
Housing instability	203	10.0%
Inability to pay medical bills	222	10.9%

Table 19 examines residents' familiarity with several social service programs offered by the city in an effort to help address and ameliorate these needs. As the data show, a significant portion of residents report being unfamiliar with services such as the Pack-A-Snack Program (48%), Homebound Book Delivery (46%), and Local Veterans Services (44%). While it's reasonable to assume that not all residents will qualify for or need these services, the responses do suggest some opportunities to improve awareness in an effort to ensure that all residents who would benefit from these services are familiar with them.

Table 19. Familiarity with Local Social Services

<i>_</i>				
Thinking about the following services, which of the following best describes your household?	Currently Use	Familiar, But Don't Need	Not Familiar	Unsure
Dunedin Food Pantry	1.3%	68.7%	17.6%	12.4%
Senior Support Services	1.0%	48.7%	35.3%	15.0%
Pack-A-Snack Program	0.3%	36.0%	47.8%	15.9%
Meals on Wheels (or similar programs)	0.3%	64.1%	20.6%	15.0%
Homebound Book Delivery Service	0.5%	38.9%	45.5%	15.1%
Local Veterans Services	1.9%	34.8%	43.7%	19.7%

# Communication and Information

Table 20 examines the mediums and information sources that residents rely on for information about the City of Dunedin. The most commonly utilized information sources included the city's website (with 94% of residents saying that they use it at least occasionally), Dunedin Parks and Rec Magazine (75%), the city's social media accounts (74%), and the Beacon (71%). Conversely, the least commonly utilized sources included the radio and live streamed commission meetings (with 63% saying that they don't use either at all), as well as the *Tampa Bay Times* (50%). Overall, the data suggest that information sources curated and managed directly by the city are preferred by residents for information about the city.

Table 20.
Use of Local Information Sources

Please indicate whether or not you use each of the following sources for information about the City of Dunedin:	Yes, Frequently	Yes, Occasionally	No
The City's website	36.8%	57.0%	6.2%
Dunedin Parks and Rec Magazine	26.4%	48.2%	25.4%
DunediNews	32.9%	36.1%	31.0%
Social Media (official City accounts)	35.9%	38.5%	25.6%
The Beacon	37.7%	33.0%	29.3%
Tampa Bay Times	22.6%	27.4%	50.1%
Local TV	34.0%	32.2%	33.8%
Radio	12.0%	25.3%	62.7%
Live Streamed Commission Meetings	5.4%	30.6%	62.7%

### City Performance

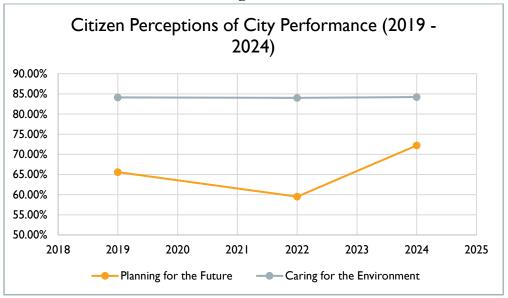
In order to understand residents' overall perceptions of the city's performance, respondents were asked a series of questions related to how well Dunedin is performing in key areas. Participants gave the city high marks when it came to environmental initiatives, with 78% indicating satisfaction with how well Dunedin is caring for the environment (Table 21). A two-thirds majority also expressed satisfaction with the city's sustainability and resiliency efforts (66%), as well as its multi-modal transportation options (61%). In the latter case, nearly 1 in 4 respondents (23%) indicated being "unsure".

Table 21.
Overall City Performance

How satisfied are you with the job that the City of Dunedin is doing in each of the following areas?	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Planning for the future	21.4%	45.1%	16.7%	8.8%	8.0%
Managing growth and development	16.2%	37.2%	23.6%	17.8%	5.2%
Caring for the environment	33.7%	44.7%	10.0%	4.7%	6.9%
Sustainability and resiliency efforts	25.9%	40.3%	11.2%	5.4%	17.2%
Multi-modal transportation efforts	21.1%	40.1%	11.8%	4.1%	22.9%

Conversely, a notable proportion of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the city's efforts at managing growth and development (41%). Additionally, just over 1 in 4 respondents expressed dissatisfaction with how the city is planning for the future (26%). While several of the questions included in this section were unique to this year's iteration of the survey, Figure 9 shows year over year changes for questions related to "planning for the future" and "caring for the environment". Over the past 5 years, residents have consistently rated the city high with regard to "caring for the environment". However, there was a notable increase in satisfaction with the city's efforts at "planning for the future", rising from 60% in 2022 to 72% in 2024.

Figure 9.



Additional questions asked residents about the extent to which they agree that Dunedin values (1) the arts and culture, (2) diversity, and (3) historic preservation, as well as (4) whether the city is "moving in the right direction" (Table 22). An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that "Dunedin values the arts an culture" (95%). A large majority also agreed that Dunedin values diversity (80%) and historic preservation (84%).

Table 22. City Values and Direction

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
It's easy for people with disabilities to get around in Dunedin	7.4%	24.1%	12.4%	4.4%	51.7%
Dunedin values the arts and culture	67.6%	27.4%	1.8%	0.4%	2.8%
Dunedin values diversity	47.2%	32.5%	6.6%	2.9%	10.8%
Dunedin values historic preservation	47.9%	35.9%	7.5%	3.8%	5.0%
The city of Dunedin is moving in the right direction	30.3%	38.6%	16.3%	10.5%	4.3%

When asked whether the city is "moving in the right direction", a little over two-thirds of respondents agreed (69%), while 27% disagreed. Figure 10 examines trend data for previously asked questions. Over the past 5 years, residents have consistently rated the city highly for "valuing the arts and culture". When it came to valuing historic preservation, there was a slight increase in agreement, rising from 83% in 2022 to 88% in 2024. Overall, the data suggest consistent response patterns with regard to the city's performance over the past 5 years.

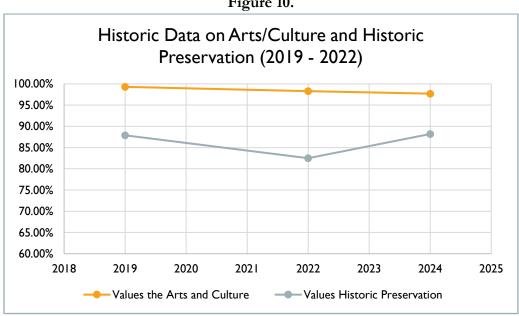
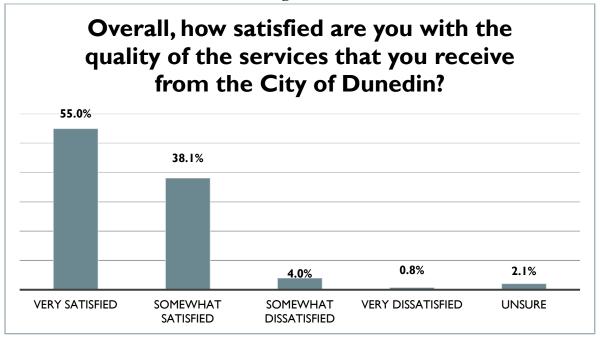


Figure 10.

Lastly, residents were asked to indicate their overall satisfaction with the quality of services they receive from the City of Dunedin. Figure 11 shows that a small majority (55%) indicated that they are "very satisfied", while an overwhelming majority (93%) indicated that they are either "very" or "somewhat satisfied". These positive ratings are consistent with previous responses examining individual services, such as parks and recreation, public safety, and trash/recycling.

Figure 11.



#### **Future Priorities**

The final section of the survey examined residents' priorities for the city moving forward, including the things they would like to see change about the city in the coming years. Table 23 shows that "improving coastal resiliency" was identified as the most important priority for the City (37%), followed by increasing the availability of affordable housing (30%), investing in public infrastructure (28%), and expanding/improving parks and greenspaces (26%). (Note that respondents were allowed to choose up to two items from the list of potential priorities). The priorities identified by residents are consistent with responses observed throughout the survey, particularly as they emphasize environmental concerns, affordable housing, and infrastructure quality/maintenance.

Table 23. Future Policy Priorities for Dunedin

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As Dunedin works on updating its strategic plan, what would you consider the top priorities for the City in the coming years?	Frequency	Percentage
Improving coastal resiliency (i.e. sea-level rise, water quality, etc.)	755	36.9%
Increasing the availability of affordable housing	601	29.4%
Investing in quality public infrastructure	570	27.9%
Expanding/improving parks and greenspaces	538	26.3%
Expanding public transportation and/or multi-modal transportation options	277	16.8%
City-wide sustainability efforts	240	13.6%
Enhancing business opportunities and incentives	197	11.7%
Enhancing arts and culture within the community	160	9.6%
Improving emergency management and public safety	140	7.8%
Other	344	6.8%

Additionally, residents were asked two open-ended questions to conclude the survey. The first asked respondents: "What do you like most about living in the City of Dunedin". Of the 2,044 participants, 1,499 provided a response (73%). An analysis of the responses was conducted using a generative AI data analyst and verified via a human content analysis. Table 24 summarizes the most common themes that emerged from the comments. Among these was a strong appreciation for Dunedin's tight-knit community feeling, as well as the overall sense of safety they feel in the city (30%). Additionally, residents expressed appreciation for local activities and events (25%) and praised the walkability of the city (20%), as well as its natural beauty (15%).

Table 24. What Residents Like Most About Living in Dunedin

Торіс	Themes	Frequency
Community and Safety	Residents value the feeling of security and the friendly atmosphere in Dunedin. Comments often mentioned feeling safe at any time of the day, which contributes significantly to their quality of life. These sense of community is strengthened through local events and neighborly interactions, with many expressing a strong connection to the area and its people.	30%
Local Activities and Events	The variety and frequency of activities available in Dunedin stand out in the responses. Many people are drawn to the town for its festivals, arts scene, and public events which cater to all age groups. This category was emphasized by residents' appreciation for the continuous availability of cultural and recreational activities that keep the town lively and engaging.	25%
Walkability and Accessibility	Comments highlighted the ease with which residents can access essential services and leisure spots without relying on a car. Many appreciate the town's infrastructure that supports walking, biking, and the use of golf carts. The ability to reach parks, shops, and restaurants by foot or bike is frequently mentioned as a key feature that enhances living in Dunedin.	20%
Natural Beauty and Outdoor Opportunities	Respondents are enthusiastic about Dunedin's environment, particularly its waterfront, parks, and proximity to beaches. The natural settings are not only enjoyed for their beauty but are also utilized for a variety of outdoor activities. Accessibility to nature and well-maintained public spaces is highly valued by the community.	15%
Local Government and Services	This category includes a variety of transportation methods like biking, walking, and the use of personal golf carts.  Comments reflected both satisfaction with these options and desire for better infrastructure to support them.	10%

The final question asked respondents; "What changes do you think would improve the City of Dunedin as a place to live." A total of 1,465 responses were received for the question (72%). The same content analysis method was used to analyze these responses, with the most common themes and topics summarized in Table 25. Consistent with observations observed throughout the survey, the most common themes included infrastructure and traffic management (20%), development and affordable housing (18%), and additional environmental initiatives (15%). For all open-ended

questions, city leaders have been provided a complete list of responses for further analysis and consideration.

Table 22. Citizen Perceptions on Improving Dunedin as a Place to Live

Торіс	Themes	Frequency
Infrastructure and Traffic Management	Many residents expressed concerns about traffic congestion, the need for better parking solutions, and the maintenance of roads and sidewalks. Suggestions include widening trails, better timing of traffic lights, and improvements to public transportation.	20%
Development and Housing	Concerns were also raised over rapid development, especially the construction of condos and high-density housing. which residents feel is altering the character of Dunedin. Many advocated for preserving green spaces and the small-town feel of the community. There were also requests for more affordable housing options.	18%
Environmental Initiatives	Many respondents would like to see Dunedin take stronger environmental actions, such as banning single-use plastics, improving recycling efforts, and focusing on coastal resiliency. There is also a desire for more areas to enjoy natural activities like kayaking.	15%
Community and Recreational Facilities	Suggestions include better facilities for youths, such as modern sports complexes, and amenities like community centers. There were also requests for more dog parks and improved accessibility to existing parks and recreation areas.	12%
Local Economy and Business	Participants expressed a desire for a balanced approach to supporting local businesses while also allowing some larger businesses to enter the market. There was a general desire for more family-friendly restaurants and quality retail spaces that do not focus solely on tourism.	10%

## Recommendations

Based on the data and key themes summarized above, several recommendations are offered in an effort assist the city in incorporating this citizen feedback into its ongoing strategic planning efforts and making improvements in the quality and efficiency of its public service provision moving forward. These include:

- 1. Invest in Traffic and Infrastructure Management:
  - ➤ Evidence: 62% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with parking during special events, and a similar discontent was noted regarding traffic congestion during peak hours.
  - **Recommendation:** In order to improve citizen experiences, the city could explore a dynamic parking management system to optimize space during peak times and enhance public communication about parking options before events.
  - **Recommendation:** Additionally, the city could explore traffic flow improvements through adaptive traffic signal control technologies that adjust in real-time to traffic conditions. Consulting with a traffic engineer/consultant may help to optimize the city's efforts in this area.
- 2. Increase Awareness and Usage of Local Public Transportation Services
  - **Evidence**: Residents reported low familiarity with several local transit services. For example, 46% indicated not being familiar with the FreeBee Loop Shuttle, while 34% said the same about the Local Tiki Shuttle.
  - ➤ **Recommendation:** It's recommended that the city develop a public awareness campaign featuring easy-to-understand guides on routes, schedules, and the benefits of local transit option. This could help to improve citizen experiences and alleviate concerns related to parking availability and traffic congestion.
  - ➤ **Recommendation:** Establishing data driven targets related to ridership and usage could help the city to track and manage progress toward these goals.

- 3. Incorporate residents' environmental concerns into the ongoing strategic planning process.
  - ➤ Evidence: The city's environmental care and sustainability efforts were praised by residents, with respondents reporting 78% satisfaction with Dunedin's environmental efforts. However, there was also a strong interest in expanding these initiatives, with improving coastal resiliency, expanding parks/greenspaces, and increasing city-wide sustainability efforts being among the top priorities identified by survey respondents.
  - ➤ **Recommendation**: As the city continues to develop an update to its strategic plan, leaders should consider a review of existing and potential sustainability projects. Seeking additional resident feedback may help to underscore the specific projects and initiatives that Dunedin citizens desire to see implemented in the community.
- 4. Increase awareness of cultural and recreational amenities.
  - ➤ *Evidence*: Many residents indicated that they were unfamiliar with key city amenities, such as the MLK Recreation Center (63% unsure) and the Hale Senior Activity Center (52% unsure).
  - Recommendation: It's recommended that the city create a detailed guide to local amenities that includes information on locations, features, and scheduled events. This could be distributed both online and in print as part of a larger information campaign. Additionally, offering guided tours of these facilities may help to boost familiarity and usage among city residents.
- 5. Consider additional investments in city infrastructure and maintenance.
  - Evidence: Satisfaction with the condition of city streets and infrastructure showed room for improvement, with only 34% indicating that they are "very satisfied" with the condition of city streets.
  - ➤ **Recommendation:** As part of the ongoing strategic planning process, the city might consider opportunities to increase investments in infrastructure maintenance, prioritizing the repair of roads with the highest traffic, and improving street lighting to enhance safety and aesthetics according to residents' feedback.

## Appendix: Survey Instrument

City of Dunedin Residents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to better serve and understand the needs of our community, the City of Dunedin is conducting a community survey. Your valuable input shapes the direction of our city's initiatives, services, and policies.

Since our first Citizen Survey in 2019, the City continues to respond to those top areas of concern you have identified through the survey. Some key projects that resulted from your feedback include:

- \* Enhancing pedestrian and bicycle safety,
- \* Increasing Sheriff patrols;
- \* Adding flashing or stop lights to key crosswalks;
- \* Providing a downtown Loop service to help ease parking and traffic demands;
- \* Developing a Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan,
- \* and a Resilient Environmental Action Master Plan.

Other projects underway include:

- \* The Skinner Boulevard Complete Streets project,
- \* the Highland Aquatic Center,
- \* and the addition of Pickleball Courts to Eagle Scout Park.

Many of the accomplishments and future projects being addressed are discussed in the 2024 State of the City Video. By participating in this survey, you have the opportunity to voice your opinions, concerns, and suggestions. Your feedback will enable us to enhance the quality of life for all residents and ensure that Dunedin continues to thrive. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes of your time, and your responses will be entirely confidential and anonymous. The survey will remain open until April 14th, 2024.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help us build a stronger, more inclusive community together.

Sincerely,

Jennifer K. Bramley, ICMA Credentialed City Manager Dunedin City Manager

Are you at least 18	3 years of age?				
○ Yes					
○ No					
Skip To: End of Surve	ey If Are you at least l	18 years of age? = N	lo	_	_
Are you a current	resident of Dunedi	n?			
O Yes, I'm a	year-round residen	nt			
O Yes, I'm a	seasonal resident				
○ No					
Skip To: End of Surve	ey If Are you a current	t resident of Dunedin	n? = No		
How would you ra	ate the City of Dun	edin in each of the	e following areas?		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
As a place to live	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
As a place to work	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0
As a place to raise children	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
As a place to visit	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
As a place to retire	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following characteristics of the City of Dunedin.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
The overall aesthetics or appearance of the city	0	0	0	0	0
The overall safety of the city	0	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
The availability of affordable housing in the city	0	$\circ$	0	0	0
Business opportunities in the city	0	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Public transportation	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Traffic flow and congestion	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following amenities offered by the City of Dunedin. (If you don't use any of these amenities, please choose "unsure")

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
The Dunedin Library	0	0	0	0	0
The Dunedin Community Center	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0
MLK Jr. Recreation Center	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Hale Senior Activity Center	0	0	0	0	0
Dunedin Golf Club	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Dunedin Fine Arts Center	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the following amenities offered by the City of Dunedin. (If you don't use any of these amenities, please choose "unsure")

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Highlander Pool	0	0	0	0	0
Kiwanis Sprayground	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Dunedin Marina	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Achieva Paw Park	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Stirling Park Driving Range	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Thinking about the City of Dunedin's <u>Parks and Recreation Services</u>, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following. (If you are not familiar with these services, please choose "unsure").

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure	
The proximity of city parks from your home	0	0	0	0	0	
The maintenance of city parks	0	$\circ$	0	0	0	
Walking and biking paths in the city	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	
The quality of programs for youth	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	
The quality of programs for adults	0	0	0	$\circ$	0	
City sponsored special events	0	0	0	0	$\circ$	
How familiar are you with the recreation programs offered by the City of Dunedin's Parks and Recreation Department?  Very Familiar  Somewhat Familiar						
Not Very Familiar						

O Not at All Familiar

Have you personally used or interacted with each of the following city services in the past 12 months?

	Yes	No
Local Police	0	0
Dunedin's Fire Department	0	0
Dunedin's Emergency Medical Services (EMS)		0
Dunedin's Code Compliance	0	0

Thinking about <u>Public Safety</u>, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following services provided by the City of Dunedin. (If you are not familiar with these services, please choose "unsure").

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Number of police present in the city	0	0	0	0	0
Police response time	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
The Community Police Officer (CPO) program	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Services	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Dunedin's Code Compliance	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	0

Thinking about the City of Dunedin's **Solid Waste and Recycling** services, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following. (If you are not familiar with these services, please choose "unsure").

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Residential trash collection	0	0	0	0	0
Curbside recycling	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Bulk trash pickup	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Yard waste collection	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Thinking about the City of Dunedin's **Infrastructure**, please indicate whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following. (If you are not familiar with these services, please choose "unsure").

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
The condition of city streets	0	0	0	0	0
Condition/appearance of medians	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Lighting on city streets	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Litter collection on city streets	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Drinking water quality	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Drainage	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\bigcirc$

ou have any specific areas of concern with the city's infrastructure and maintenance, please share then us here:
ich of the following statements do you think is most accurate?
The City of Dunedin is growing and developing too quickly
The City of Dunedin is growing and developing at a good pace
The City of Dunedin is not growing and developing quickly enough
Unsure

Next, we'd like to understand how satisfied you are with <u>the availability of public parking</u> in Downtown Dunedin during each of the following times:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable to Me
Weekdays	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Evenings During the Week	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Weekends During the Day	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	$\circ$
Weekends During the Evening	0	$\circ$	0	0	$\circ$
During Events/Festivals	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

How satisfied are you with <u>the flow of traffic and congestion</u> in Downtown Dunedin at each of the following times:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable to Me
Weekdays	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Evenings During the Week	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Weekends During the Day	0	0	0	0	0
Weekends During the Evening	0	0	0	0	0
During Events/Festivals		$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

In your opinion, does the City of Dunedin have adequate infrastructure to safely and efficiently support the following modes of transportation?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Walking	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Biking	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Golf Carting	0	$\circ$	$\circ$

How familiar are you	with each of the	following transit	services availab	le in Dunedin,	including how	to use
this service if you des	sired?					

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Very Familiar	Not at All Familiar
FreeBee Loop Shuttle	0	0	0	0
Jolly Trolly	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Local Tiki Shuttle	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
PSTA Buses	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Clearwater- Dunedin Ferry	0	0	0	0

us in	would like to better understand how residents of Dunedin feel about these transit services. a few sentences whether you use these services, what your experience with them has been - if any - reasons might prevent you from using them?	
-		
-		
-		

Have you or someone you live with experienced any of the following over the past year? Please choose "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
Food Insecurity	$\circ$	
Unmet Medical Needs	$\circ$	
Unmet Housing Needs	$\circ$	
Transportation Issues		
Technology Needs	$\circ$	
Housing Instability	$\circ$	
Inability to Pay Medical Bills and Medication Costs	0	0

Thinking about each of the following services, which of the following best describes your household?

	My household currently uses this service	I'm familiar with this service, but my household doesn't need this type of support right now.	I am not familiar with this service	Unsure
Dunedin's Food Pantry	0	$\circ$	0	0
Senior Support Services	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Pack-A-Snack Program	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Meals on Wheels (or similar programs)	0	0	0	$\circ$
The Dunedin Library's Homebound Book Delivery Service	0	$\circ$	0	0
Local Veteran's Services	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

Please indicate whether or not you use each of the following sources for information about the City of Dunedin

	Yes, frequently	Yes, Occasionally	No
The City's website (dunedingov.com)	0	0	0
Dunedin Parks and Recreation Magazine	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
DunediNews	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Social Media (official city accounts)	$\circ$	0	$\bigcirc$
The Beacon	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Tampa Bay Times	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Local TV	$\circ$	$\circ$	0
Radio	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
Live Streamed City Commission Meetings	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$

How satisfied are you with the job that the City of Dunedin is doing in each of the following areas?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unsure
Planning for the future	0	0	0	0	0
Managing growth and development	0	$\circ$	0	0	0
Caring for the environment	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Sustainability and Resiliency Efforts	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0
Multi-Modal Transportation Efforts	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	0	0

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
It's easy for people with disabilities to get around in Dunedin	0	0	0	0	0
Dunedin values the arts and culture	0	0	0	0	0
Dunedin values diversity	0	0	0	0	0
Dunedin values historic preservation	0	0	0	0	0
The City of Dunedin is moving in the right direction	0	0	0	0	0

Overall, how s	satisfied are you with the quality of services that you receive from the City of Dunedin?		
O Very	Satisfied		
O Some	what Satisfied		
O Some	what Dissatisfied		
O Very Dissatisfied			
OUnsur	re		
	orks on updating its strategic plan, what would you consider the top priorities for the City in ars? (Note: please select no more than two items from the list below).		
	Investing in quality public infrastructure		
	Enhancing business opportunities and incentives		
	Increasing the availability of affordable housing		
	Enhancing arts and culture within the community		
	Improving emergency management and public safety		
	Expanding/improving parks and greenspaces		
	Expanding public transportation and/or multi-modal transportation options		
	City-wide sustainability efforts		
	Improving coastal resiliency (i.e. sea-level rise, water quality, etc.)		
	Other (please specify)		

hat do you like most about living in the City of Dunedin?	
	_
	=
	-
	_
	-
nat changes do you think would improve the City of Dunedin as a place to live?	
ate changes do you trime would improve the City of Bulledin as a place to live.	
	_
	_
	-
	_

This final set of demographic questions is being collected for statistical purposes only, as it helps us to ensure that we are hearing from all of Dunedin's diverse communities. Your responses to these questions are anonymous.

ow long have you been a resident of Dunedin?		
C Less than I year		
O I-2 years		
○ 3-5 years		
○ 6-10 years		
O II-20 years		
O More than 20 years		
Vhat type of home do you live in?		
○ Single family home		
O Duplex / Triplex		
O Apartment (rental)		
O Mobile Home		
Condominium		
Assisted Living Facility		
Other		

Do you rent or own your current home?
Rent
Own
Do you identify as
O Male
O Female
O Non-Binary / Transgender
What is your age?
O Under 25
O 25-34
<b>35-44</b>
O 45-54
O 55-64
O 65-74
75 or older

Are you of Hispanic descent?		
(	○ Yes	
(	○ No	
Whic	ch of the following <u>best</u> describes your race?	
(	○ White	
(	Black or African American	
(	American Indian or Alaska Native	
(	Asian	
(	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	
(	Other	